

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) applauded today's selection of San Antonio as the site for the 5th national polytrauma center run by Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The San Antonio polytrauma facility will provide comprehensive treatment to soldiers with complex injuries from their service in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"San Antonio is the ideal location for the new national polytrauma center," said Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez. "I advocated strongly for San Antonio because our robust medical and military community is well situated for treating the numerous veterans and returning soldiers across the region with severe and complex injuries. As a Member of the House Appropriations Committee, I worked closely with my colleagues to secure the funds for the San Antonio polytrauma center in the 2007 Emergency Supplemental. I applaud the VA's selection of San Antonio for the 5th national polytrauma center and welcome these brave men and women during their recovery."

VA polytrauma centers high-quality and inter-disciplinary health care centers designed to provide comprehensive care to returning service members with multiple injuries and life changing impairments. Polytrauma is an injury to more than one physical region or organ system, resulting in physical, cognitive, psychological, or psychosocial impairments and functional disability; injuries include traumatic brain injury (TBI), hearing loss, amputations, fractures, burns, and visual impairment. There are currently only four other polytrauma centers in the United States: Richmond, VA; Tampa, FL; Minneapolis, MN; and Palo Alto, CA.

Congressman Rodriguez is a Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and the House Appropriations Committee

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